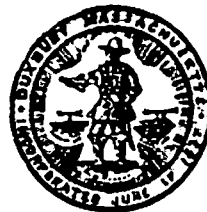


Alison Arnold Writes...

Weston, Drew, Sampson, Sprague, Gifford and Stetson. The generations are carrying on.



Under tall pines on Chestnut St. is the oldest maintained cemetery in the United States. Buried there are Myles Standish and John and Priscilla Alden.

In 1892 this cemetery, near where the first Duxbury Church was located in 1632, received its name when, as a result of painstaking research, it was found to be the resting place of Capt. Myles Standish.

In it lie the men who bore arms with him, as well as Revolutionary heroes and veterans of the War of 1812. Time has obliterated many of the identifying marks on the old gravestones, but there are graves of Bradfords, Delanos, Loring, Petersons and Brewsters, all familiar Duxbury names today.

Abigail Bradford, wife of Gamaliel, died August 30, 1776, at the age of 73. Lydia Peterson, widow of Jonathan, died May 26, 1736, having been born in the 17th Century. But there are no records of lots and no more lots are available in this cemetery.

The Mayflower Cemetery, so named in 1903, is on Tremont St. beside the Unitarian Church. It dates from 1787 and a map, prepared by Frederick Knapp, gives a complete plan of lots and owners since that time.

In one lot under a tall oak tree behind iron railings is the grave of Mrs. Beulah Wadsworth, wife of Capt. Alexander Wadsworth. She died at sea aboard the ship *Seth Sprague* after giving birth to a baby in the Bay of Bengal on the trip from Madras to Calcutta, February 17, 1843, at the age of 39 years and 5 months. Her husband, who died in 1900, is buried nearby.

There are also gravestones that are merely memorials to lost mariners who went down to the sea in ships and never returned. The stones, erected by those who were left ashore, bear the inscription: "Lost at sea."

One stone, engraved with a weeping willow, marks the grave of Joshua Peterson, born August 20, 1751, died December 12, 1835. Under the information is the inscription: "This is the brief history of man."

Two small stones marked "Gertie" and "Arthur," show the graves of 2 children. Others show that Celina, age 17, died after giving birth to Bertie, age one day. But her husband, John, had 2 more wives, one of whom died after having 11 children.

The longevity of some Duxbury residents is shown by the graves of Nathaniel Winsor, who died in 1839 at 91, and Dura Wadsworth, who died in 1881, at 92.

And there are many graves of people who bore the same names as Duxbury residents of today. The Ellison family is well represented. William Ellison, born in 1811, died in 1858. His wife, the former Almeda Partridge, lies nearby. These names were given to William Partridge Ellison, who lives on Powder Point.

Flags mark the graves of Revolutionary War heroes, as well as veterans of the War of 1812. And many familiar Duxbury names include Chandler,